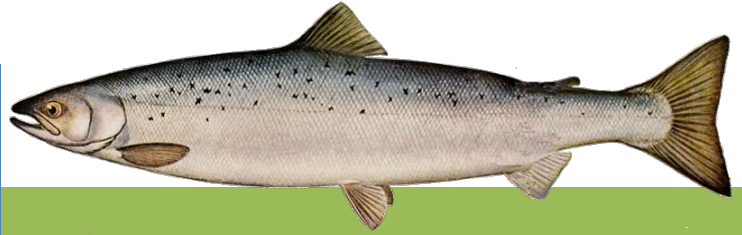


**CT DEEP 2015
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 25
10/1/2015**



Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*)



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INLAND REPORT

ATLANTIC SALMON - 2015 fall Atlantic Salmon stocking begins.

This week to begin the 2015 autumn stockings of Atlantic salmon, DEEP stocked 250 Atlantic salmon into Mount Tom Pond (125 fish) and Crystal Lake (125 fish). These fish weigh from 2-6 lbs each. DEEP expects to stock the Shetucket River and Naugatuck River next week should flows be appropriate for stocking (flows had been too low to stock most rivers, but have now improved, however with the possibility of a tropical storm in the forecast flows may become too high). DEEP expects to stock a total of nearly 1,200 broodstock Atlantic salmon this fall.

The regulations for methods, seasons and minimum lengths for Atlantic salmon released into lakes and ponds are the same as for trout in that specific water body but the daily creel limit will be one salmon per day. (Please refer to the 2015 CT Angler's Guide for trout regulations).

TROUT- Annual fall trout stockings continue.

DEEP's fall trout stockings began last week. From now through mid-October, DEEP is releasing 29,000 "trophy" and "adult" sized trout into selected waters throughout the state. Approximately 5,000 are "trophy" size Brown Trout (all greater than 12 inches in length), 8,000 are "trophy" size Rainbow Trout, 1,000 are broodstock Brown and Brook Trout, and the remaining 15,000 "adults" are standard size (9-10 inch) Rainbow Trout. In addition to these fish, the Farmington River was stocked with 2,000 "trophy" size Brown Trout just before the Labor Day weekend. Additionally, 33,000 "yearling" trout (4-8 inch fish) will be stocked into a number of waters. These small fish are intended to grow and holdover to provide late fall, winter and early spring fishing opportunities (or in several cases to enhance wild trout populations). Note that stockings in a number of areas have and may be delayed or postponed due to environmental conditions (primarily low to very low flows in many streams, and possibly very high flows as the possibility of a tropical storm is in the forecast).

Lakes and ponds stocking update (Note that all stocking schedules are subject to change): In eastern CT, **Crystal Lake** (800 brown trout – 12 inch and longer fish) and **Beach Pond** (800 brown trout – 12 inch and longer fish) and In western CT, **Squantz Pond** (500 Rainbow Trout – 12 inch and longer fish), **Tyler Pond** (350 Rainbow Trout — 12 inch and longer fish), **West side Pond** (200 Rainbow Trout — 12 inch and longer fish), **Mount Tom Pond** (300 Rainbow Trout – 12 inch and longer fish), **Stillwater Pond** (250 Rainbow Trout – 12 inch and longer fish), and **Highland Lake** (800 brown trout – 12 inch and longer fish).

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - Some action for trout reported from trout from Crystal Lake, Mount Tom Pond, West Hill Pond and East Twin Lake.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - This week's rain improved flows in rivers and streams throughout the state, with flows going from being well below typical late September/early October flows to being at or above their typical levels (but still very fishable in most areas)(see *stream flow graphic on page 4*). Conditions for the weekend and next week remain quite variable however, being highly dependent on additional rainfall amounts and the eventual path of Hurricane Joaquin (both events possible but currently far from definite). Anglers can check stream flows for a number of areas at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>.

At this time of the year streamers will be very important to have in the vest. Try white, yellow and brown colors. Patterns to try include White Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Mickey Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Try bottom bouncing nymphs with Caddis pupa (#14-16), Serendipity (#14-16), Pheasant Tail (#12-20), Prince (#6-18) and Hare's ear (#8-20).

Farmington River – Fishing has been good, and conditions for the weekend should be good (barring of course any additional heavy precipitation). Flows are clearing, low to moderate (currently 110 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding another 110 cfs) and quite fishable. Water temperatures are in the low 60s°F. Just a reminder that last week the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) stocked 1,100 large brown trout (12 inch and up fish) into the West Branch Farmington River from the Goodwin Dam to the gas pipeline downstream of the confluence with the Still River.

Hatches/patterns include *Isonychia bicolor* (major hatch, #12-14, fast water, afternoon/evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* & *Baetis* spp., #18, 20-24, mid-late afternoon), Cahill (#12-14), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning) and Midges (#20-24, morning). Keep an eye out for terrestrials such as Black Ants (#22-24, midday in fast water), Black Beetles (#16-18, midday), Flying Ants (#18-26, midday, when windy/humid), Stone Hopper (#10-12, midday), and Rusty Spinners (#18-26, which will produce in the evening). An 8 foot, 6 inch 4-weight fly rod with a 9 foot leader and 6X tippet is suggested.

Housatonic River – Fishing has been good and conditions for the weekend should be fairly good. Flows have been refreshed by this week's rain, and are currently clearing and on the high side (1,370 cfs at Falls Village and 1,570 cfs at Gaylordsville) but fishable (and wade-able with care) and continuing to drop. Cooler nights continue to drop water temperatures with morning water temperatures in the upper 50's °F. There are also lots of recently stocked trout waiting for anglers. With some rain and possible a tropical storm in the forecasts for this weekend and early next week anglers are reminded that they can call FirstLight Power Resources at 1-888-417-4837 or check the USGS website (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>) for updated Housatonic River flow information (and also check with a local bait & tackle shop).

Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (#18-22, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 mid-afternoon to evening), Cahills/Summer (#12-14, evenings), Summer Sulfurs (#16-18; evenings) and Black caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening). A 9 foot 4-weight fly rod with a 9 foot leader and 7X tippet is suggested. Also try terrestrial patterns such as Black Beetles (#14-18, mid day), Stone Hopper (#8-10, mid day) and Flying Ants (#16-18, mid-day, when windy/humid). Nymphing the pockets, deeper riffles and pool heads can be productive.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is reported as fair to good. Places to try include West Hill Pond, Pachaug Pond, Highland Lake, Bantam Lake, Candlewood Lake, East Twin Lake, Congamond Lakes, Wononskopomuc Lake, Wood Creek Pond, Hatch Pond, Gardner Lake, Mudge Pond, Lake Lillinonah, Squantz Pond, Stillwater Pond, Batterson Park Pond, Lake Waramaug, Lake Zoar, Bishop Swamp Pond, Quaddick Lake, Moosup Pond, Quinebaug Lake, Crystal Lake (Ellington), Hayward Lake, Red Cedar Lake and Billings Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Amos Lake (slow, 3.53 lb lunker), Moodus Reservoir (fair at best, 2.22 lb lunker), Pachaug Pond (fair to good, 3.10 lb lunker), Pickerel Lake (slow to fair, 3.24 lb lunker), Quaddick Lake (good, with a 5.2 lb lunker), and Candlewood Lake (fair).

SMALLMOUTH BASS action reported at Candlewood Lake, Lake Lillinonah, Squantz Pond, Coventry Lake and the upper Housatonic River. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (slow action with anglers having to work to catch their fish, 4.2 lb, 4.1 lb and 4.0 lb lunkers) and Pachaug Pond (a few in the bags).

NORTHERN PIKE catches have been reported in Winchester Lake and Bantam Lake.

Big **CHAIN PICKEREL** were reported from Lake Wononskopomuc, Silver Lake, Dog Pond and Wood Creek Pond (smaller fish).

PANFISH are providing consistent fall action throughout the state. Use worms, grubs, jigs or small poppers for them. Small local ponds are often great spots. Larger waters to try include Pickerel Lake, Halls Pond, Dog Pond, Aspinook Pond, Kenosia Lake, Silver Lake and Coventry Lake. Good Yellow Perch action report from Lake Lillinonah.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Flows are currently turbid and high (but beginning to peak) with some floating debris, and difficult to boat and fish. Conditions next week may improve or worsen depending on the track of what is now Hurricane Joaquin and precipitation amounts (if any). This past week, **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing was good in the coves up and down the river. Fish have been found in coves from Rocky Hill to Haddam. **CHANNEL CATFISH** continue to be caught in the river at night live lining sunfish. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** in the Haddam area are giving anglers some action. **BLACK CRAPPIE** were producing some excellent catches in the river coves. Wethersfield Cove has been a very good area to target. Use a small jig tipped with 2-inch shiners for some action.



ZEBRA MUSSELS REMINDER

Zebra mussels are now found in a number of locations scattered throughout the Housatonic River and its impoundments including Lake Lillinonah (since 2010), Lake Zoar (since 2010) and Lake Housatonic (since 2011).

Prior to their discovery in Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar in 2010, zebra mussels had been found (1998) in CT only in East Twin Lake and West Twin Lake (Salisbury). Anglers fishing in any of these waters and western Connecticut in general **should use extra care to avoid transporting water, aquatic vegetation, and possibly zebra mussels to new locations.** Information

For more information including precautions that should be taken to prevent the spread of zebra mussels to additional waters, visit www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2015 CT angler's Guide(www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).

NOTES & NOTICES:

BASHAN LAKE (drawdown). Bashan Lake remains drawn down (slow refill has begun – lake currently remains down approximately 10 feet – note that refill rate is dependent on rainfall amounts and this week's rains should help increase the refill rate some) following dam repairs and the state boat launch is closed.

COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE (boat launch). The **boat launch at Colebrook River Lake is closed until further notice** due to low water levels. Boaters should call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at 860-379-8234 for updated information.

CONNECTICUT RIVER (Essex - rowing regatta). A loop rowing event is currently scheduled for **Saturday, October 3 from 7:30 am to 10:30 am** in the Essex area (staging out of the Pettipaug Yacht Club). This event is a loop race from the yacht club north to and around Selden Island and then back down to the yacht club. Boaters should use additional caution in this area.

COVENTRY LAKE (invasive species alert). Fragments of hydrilla, a very highly invasive aquatic plant, was found floating near the boat launch last week. All lake users should take extra care to check and clean their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the boat launch, or leaving the lakeshore.

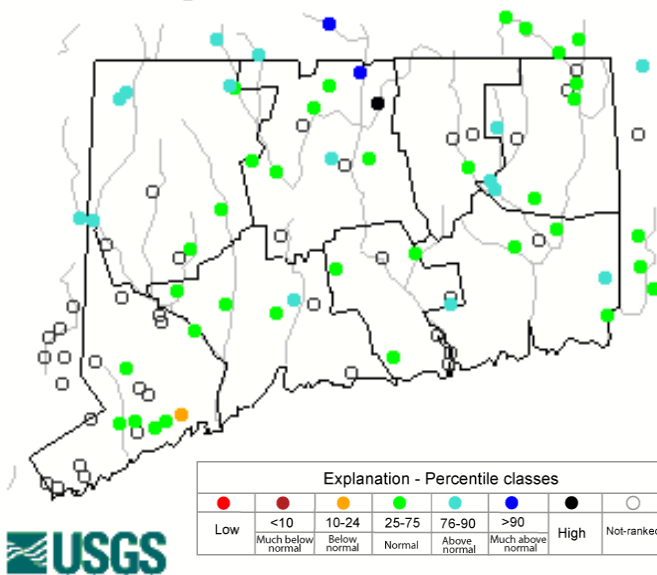
GLASGO POND (drawdown). A drawdown of Glasgo Pond to facilitate dam repairs began September 16. Launching of boats will become difficult to impossible as levels drop.

LAKE LILLINONAH (drawdown, boat launches). Lake Lillinonah is currently drawn down approximately 1.7 feet from its typical minimum summer level as a flood control measure due to this week's rain and some additional rains and the possibility of a tropical storm (Joaquin) affecting CT in the forecast. At this level **use of the Route 133/steel bridge state boat launch may require extra care and the launching of trailered boats at the Pond Brook state launch will be difficult.** Note that the lake may be drawn down further should forecasts worsen (making both launches very difficult to impossible for trailered boats to launch). Anglers can call FirstLight Power at 1-888-417-4837 for updated lake levels (and Housatonic River flow) information.

LONG ISLAND SOUND & COASTAL RIVERS (CT boat launches). The portable toilets at the Saugatuck River (Westport), Branford River (Branford), East River (Guilford), Salmon River (East Haddam), Lieutenant River (Old Lyme), Great Island (Old Lyme), Niantic River (Waterford), Dock Road (Waterford), Thames River (New London), K.E. Streeter (Groton), and Barn island (Stonington) state boat launches are being temporarily removed in preparation for potential storm conditions from Hurricane Joaquin. It is expected that all toilets will be reinstalled no later than next Thursday (October 8).

Stream flow conditions as of 10/1/2015

Thursday, October 01, 2015 17:00ET



Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt> A percentile is a value on a scale of one hundred that indicates the percent of data in the data set equal to or below it. For example streamflow greater than the 75th percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered "above normal". Stream flow between the 25th and 50th are considered to be "normal flows" and those 25th or less are considered to be "below normal".

LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS

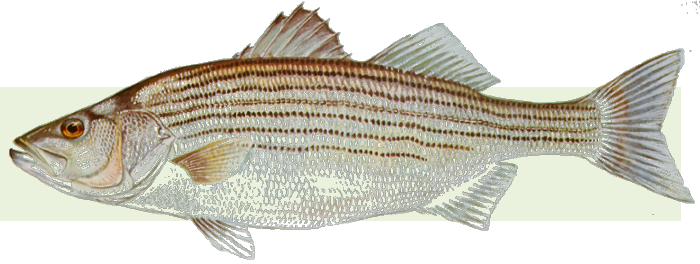
Bathymetric maps of many of Connecticut's public access lakes and ponds can be found online at:

www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

Both plain line maps and maps overlaying an aerial photo available.



MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) remain in the mid to upper 70's °F. Check out the following web sites for more detailed water temperatures and marine boating conditions:

<http://www.mysound.uconn.edu/stationstat.html>

http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

REMINDER TO ANGLERS: Whales have been reported in Long Island Sound, please see the [WHALE WATCHING GUIDELINES](#) on our website.

Please note: All marine mammals are protected by the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act. Following these recommended operational guidelines helps minimize chances of harassing or injuring whales and violating Federal law. Guidelines apply to all large whales from Maine through Virginia, except North Atlantic right whales. It is illegal to approach a right whale within 500 yards (1500 feet) unless granted specific exemption or authorization.

Connecticut State Boundary Line in Long Island Sound. Anglers please note: Though Connecticut has reciprocity with neighboring states (New York, Rhode Island, Maine and Massachusetts), residents of Connecticut are required to have a CT Resident Marine Waters Sport Fishing License to fish in the Marine District.

STRIPED BASS fishing is improving and **BLUEFISH** fishing remains at its peak (Fantastic)! Some of the largest bluefish of the year can be found in the lower reaches of our major tidal rivers! Look for bunker (Atlantic menhaden) schools and choppers will be nearby. Fishing spots include the Watch Hill reefs, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, lower Thames River, the Race, Sluiceway, Pigeon Rip, Plum Gut, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, the "humps" south of Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Six Mile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Branford, New Haven Harbor, Charles Island area, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef. Large striped bass have been caught trolling (8 to 12 feet) along Short Beach to Stratford Point using a SP Minnow in the bone or pearl color pattern. Try shallow water striper fishing and you be glad you did.

SNAPPER BLUEFISH fishing remains very good. They can be found mixed in with menhaden. Snappers are measuring about 6-10 inches in length.

BLACK SEA BASS and SCUP (porgy) fishing remains excellent! Any of the rocky reefs will provide nonstop action. Fishing in deeper water (80+ feet) over gnarly bottom (be prepared to lose rigs) is your best bet for bigger black sea bass. Shore fishing spots for scup [Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities](#). These "Panfish of

SHORE FISHING SPOTS & TIDE TABLE INFORMATION

To find a saltwater shore fishing spot close to where you live, go to the following website:

<http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/coastalaccess/>.

For **Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing** sites and other fishing information including a site map go to the following website

<http://www.depdata.ct.gov/maps/saltwaterfish/map.htm>.

Please see page 60 of the [2015 CT Angler's Guide](#) for CT tide information.

the Sea” are easily caught on sandworms/cut squid/conch or any other small piece of bait. Contact your local [bait and tackle shop](#) for updated fishing information (see page 14 of the 2015 CT Angler’s Guide).

ATLANTIC BONITO and LITTLE TUNNY fishing has expanded into western LIS from Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground over to the Norwalk Islands and Cable and Anchor Reef. In the east, Pine Island, Bartlett Reef including off Harkness Memorial State Park and Black Point have been the spots, but, you never know when or where these speedsters will show up! Look for hovering and diving gulls and terns to give away their location. Be patient and they will come to you...try to avoid pushing them down and out of site. The key is to match the hatch. The hatch can be really small, try using a fly rod. Use nothing more than 15 pound mono or fluorocarbon (smaller the better). They love eating silversides...imitate that baitfish and game on...

BLUE CRAB fishing is tough and patience is the key.

Remember...all egg-bearing females must be released without avoidable injury. Minimum carapace length is 5 inches for a hard shell crab. Legal gear types include:

scoop (dip) net, hand line, star crab trap, circular (topless) trap not exceeding 26 inches in diameter.

Maryland Style Crab traps are prohibited. **Chicken with the skin on it (along with a long handle net) is the preferred method to capture these tasty crabs.** For more information, please see the [Blue Crab Fact Sheet](#).

SHARK SPECIES YOU MAY ENCOUNTER IN COASTAL WATERS OF CONNECTICUT: Although you might catch Sand Tiger and Sandbar (Brown) Sharks, they are both protected prohibited species and must be released unharmed. **IF YOU DON’T KNOW, PLEASE LET IT GO!** [Coastal shark information](#).

GOT A FISHING REPORT - PLEASE EMAIL US AT deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov

BRACKISH WATER & SEA TURTLE INFORMATION

- Link to [IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON SEA TURTLES](#)
- [NORTHERN DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN TURTLE](#) – Many shore anglers fishing in the lower Connecticut and Housatonic Rivers and other estuaries are encountering these beautiful brackish water turtles while fishing. They will frequently feed on fishermen’s live or dead bait when bottom fishing. They are a protected species with very low abundance. Please take great care (use needle nose pliers) when removing the hook and release the turtle with unavoidable harm. Terrapins have a long lifespan of about 25 to 40 years.

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Striped Bass image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.